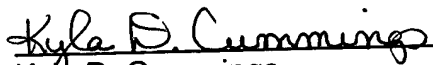


or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the sum of \$180.00 due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/A0039C1/KDC.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyla D. Cummings
Registration No. 50,682
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
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Date Considered

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT***(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

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| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
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Date Considered

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Sheet 4

of 12

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
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| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
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Examiner

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Sheet 5

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| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
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| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
| Filing Date | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1 |
| Customer No. | 36735 |
| Submission Date | January 11, 2005 |

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of 12

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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| Application Number | 10/621,971 |
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| First Named Inventor | Bernd Georg Pietr |
| Group Art Unit | 3672 |
| Examiner Name | Frank Tsay |
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Sheet | 12

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner

Date Considered

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